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The Intelligencer.

WHEELING, W. VA., APRIL 14, 1887.

The Annual National Drink Bill.

In his quarterly report just published

the Chief of the Bureau of Statistics de-

votes considerable space to the consump-

tion and cost of alcoholic beverages in this

country. An interesting table showing

the consumption per capita of population

since 1810 reveals a steady growth and a

very large increase. In 1810 the consump-

tion was 4.17 gallons, and by 1886 this had

risen to 12.02 gallons—an increase due to

the growing popularity of malt beverages.

In 1810 the average American used 2.62

gallons of distilled spirits, and now he gets

along with that quantity. In 1810 he

drank a fourth of a gallon of wine, and

strangely enough he drinks but a third of

a gallon now. But it is in the matter of

his malt beverages that he shows the

power to expand. From 1.35 gallons in

1810 he has come to take 11.18 gallons in

these days.

The increased capacity in some degree

to be attributed to a change in native

taste, and also to the swelling tide of im-

migration. Public speakers and writers

are wont to give the credit of the malt

liquor trade to the infusion of the German

strain in the native stock. Something

must be allowed to the British sub-

jects who come over, for in their own

country, as appears by their own statistics,

they drink more malt liquors per capita

than the Germans. The subject of Her

Majesty takes his thirty-three gallons of

malt drink in a year, while the subject of

the Kaiser gets along on twenty-four.

At the request of the Bureau of Statis-

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and malt liquors consumed annually in

the United States, and this estimate has

the high endorsement of Mr. Edward At-

kinson. The estimate in gross is seven

hundred millions of dollars for 1886. Of

this amount three hundred and twenty-

three millions were for distilled spirits

and three hundred and twenty millions

for malt liquors. The liquor-consuming

population is found to be, in round num-

bers, fifteen millions, or one person in

four of the whole number in the country.

It is, of course, largely centered in the

cities, where 22 1/2 per cent of the popu-

lation is to be found.

The average cost to those who drink is

\$19.90 a year. The grand total spent for

living is estimated at from \$79,600 millions

of dollars to 117,200 millions, and this gives

the ratio of one dollar spent for liquor to

\$12.50 to \$16.67 spent for other things en-

tering into the living account. If these

figures be approximately correct we may

compromise between the extremes and

place the liquor expenditure at one dollar

in fifteen. The method by which this re-

sult is reached is very interesting, but

there is not room to follow it in detail

in this article.

Both the gross expenditure and the ra-

tio are sufficiently large, but they fall be-

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form purposes. The truth, whatever it is,

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of the American people should not be ex-

aggerated to swell the chapter of horrors.

Moreover, every misrepresentation hurts

the cause of temperance, for it is certain

to be challenged, to the discredit of the

AN UNFORTUNATE AFFAIR.

An American Naval Officer Charged With

Carelessness.

A Washington dispatch says: "The

Navy Department has received a detailed

account of the serious accident at Wyke-

ham, near Nagasaki, Japan, which re-

sulted in the death of four natives, and

for which Captain Selridge and other

United States Naval officers are held to be

to some extent responsible, and in conse-

quence of which Selridge has been or-

dered to report in Washington.

The report received is taken from a

Japanese newspaper, and alleges that in

violation of the law of the United States

permitted drill practice within fifty yards

of the shore. Three shells were fired and

the officers in charge reported to Captain

Selridge that all had exploded. Five un-

exploded shells were nevertheless fired,

or dug up by the natives, and one of these

was carried into the town where it was ac-

cidentally exploded, killing four and

wounding seven men.

Captain Selridge, who was in command

of the Omaha, was immediately ordered

to the scene of the disaster, and he is now

quarantined at San Francisco."

A full account of the occurrence above

mentioned appears in the *Rising Sun* and*Nagasaki Express*, under date of March 9th,

which contains the most interesting details

plus occurred on the island of Iokohama,

about twenty-five miles distant from here,

on the evening of the 4th inst., resulting

in the death of four Japanese and the

wounding in various degrees of seven others.

The circumstances of the case, so far

as we have been able to gather, are that

the United States steamer Omaha, Capt.

Selridge, whilst on the voyage down from

Kobe, stopped off Iokohama for gun prac-

tice, and as falling darkness was gathering

about in every direction, and to test it was

decided to put up a floating target about

fifty yards from the beach, below a bluff

about 400 feet high, at which some thirty

shots were fired, at a distance of about

1,000 yards, between 10 and 11 o'clock

P. M. At the conclusion of the firing

the officer of the ship in charge of the

target reported that the whole of the

shells fired had exploded, and the ship

proceeded on her voyage, arriving here

about 1 P. M. Unfortunately, however,

shortly after the Omaha left, an unex-

ploded shell was found, and whilst a group

of resident natives were examining it, it

suddenly, through some unexplained

cause, exploded, with the fatal result

stated above. The affair was then re-

ported to the Koncho, and the services of

the Mitsui Bishi Co.'s s. s. Meishin having

been placed at the disposal of the author-

ities, the following day, Dr. Yoshida, su-

perintendent of the Nagasaki Hospital,

and a party of men, accompanied by a

staff of men, proceeded to Iokohama to

investigate and report officially upon the

matter. Dr. Yoshida and party arrived

on the scene about twenty-seven hours

after the occurrence of the accident.

The wounded were first carefully

examined and attended to, after which

a post mortem examination of the dead

bodies was held to discover the probable

cause of death. The dead were composed

entirely of the male sex, and numbered

three in all, respectively. The wounded

comprised one man, one woman and two

boys, seriously; and one woman and two

girls slightly. Even those most seriously

wounded are reported to be confidently

expected to recover under medical treat-

ment. All the wounds are on the front

parts of the bodies, and were evidently

inflicted whilst the unfortunate people

were standing together in some close

proximity to the shell at the time it ex-

ploded. The killed and severely wounded

probably being in the front rank of the

spectators, and those slightly wounded

close behind them. Up to a late hour

yesterday, the police report had

not been received. A Court of

Enquiry into the matter will, no

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cause.

The correspondent finds that ignorant

women, colored and white, came to the

polls; that some of them did not know

how they voted; that ladies were insulted

by roughs of their own sex; that ladies

appealed to servants and dependents to

vote with them; that an old colored

woman who lived in a house rent-free re-

fused to vote as her landlord wished her

to vote; that in the cities the better el-

ement of women did not outnumber the

other as had been promised; that women

voted who were swayed by passion and

led by demagogues; that the voting

women were not submissive to reason

and authority; that the voting caused

social and church divisions and attacks on

female reputation. This is an exact sum-

mary of the correspondent's finding.

Assuming all this to be true, what does

it prove? That women are good imita-

tors? or that female human nature is in

some respects not entirely unlike male

human nature? If the enuff were re-

stricted to the intelligent, the wise, the

virtuous, the independent, to those who

can neither be driven by masters nor

led by demagogues, how many men would

be qualified out of a possible hundred?

The correspondent's report deals with

the expediency of extending the suffrage

to women; it nowhere touches the higher

question of right. So long as we withhold

the ballot from women we shall do it on

the ground of expediency; and on this

there are good arguments pro and con.

"Howdy" Martin.

New York Tribune.

Colonel W. H. Martin, of Henderson

county, Texas, who has been elected Mr.